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			2176	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/026,681

Applicant(s)

SULISTIO ET AL.

Examiner

Robert Stevens

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: appeal brief filed 1/3/2006.
2. The Office withdraws the previous rejections under 35 USC § 103(a).
3. New rejections under 35 USC §§101, 112-1st and 112-2nd paragraphs and 103(a) are set forth below.
4. This action is **NON-FINAL**.
5. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claim 1, 8, 15-16 and 23-24 are independent.

Claim Objections

6. **Claims 15-16 and 23-24 are objected to** because of the following informalities: Claim 15 (line 12), claim 16 (line 9), claim 23 (line 15) and claim 24 (line 14) each recite "said paths specifications" rather than "said path specifications". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. **Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101** because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 8: These claims "provide" a graphical user interface (GUI), receive a couple of values, and then search documents based on those values. No useful, concrete and tangible result is accomplished. For example, there is no providing of results to constitute a tangible result, so as to be able to realize the usefulness of a search.

Regarding independent claim 15: This claim "provides" a GUI, as in claim 1, receives user input, and forwards that user input to a server. Although arguably tangible, the transmission of data provides no concrete or useful result. This data is merely moved from point A to point B. There is no transformation, for instance, that takes place. This claim thus produces no useful, concrete and tangible result.

Regarding independent claim 16: This claim is directed to a "computer-implemented" GUI. Although tangibly embodied, a graphical user interface is merely an arrangement of fields, and therefore non-statutory under 35 USC 101 as being non-functional descriptive material. The Office interprets the recited "filters" as merely fields for data entry. The data is intended for use in a filtering process, presumably implemented in an unclaimed search engine functionality.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 17-22 depend upon claims 1, 8 and 16, respectively, and are therefore likewise rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

10. **Claims 5-7, 12-14 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Regarding claims 5-7, 12-14 and 20-22, there is no enabling disclosure in the application as to how one would implement the graphical user interface, as claimed in the parent independent claim of each these dependent claims, as a "character string".

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11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

12. **Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph**, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claims 1 (lines 8-9), 8 (lines 8-9), 15 (lines 8-9), 16 (lines 6-7), 23 (lines 11-12) and 24 (lines 11-12) each recite the limitation "the document fields" in lines 8-9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that, in each case, the preceding GUI limitation is actually directed to a selection filter, and not a document field.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 17-22 depend upon claims 1, 8 and 16, respectively, and are therefore likewise rejected.

Additionally, claims 17 -22 recite a dependence upon the "method" of independent claim 16, which is actually directed to a "graphical user interface". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in these claims.

Further regarding claims 5-7, 12-14 and 20-22, it is unclear what is being claimed. The parent independent claim associated with each of these dependent

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claims recites a document type selection filter, field selection filter, specification fields and hidden fields. It is unclear how a mere character string, as recited in claims 5-7, 12-14 and 20-22 could represent any of those limitations (especially that of a hidden or non-displaying field) recited in each of the corresponding parent independent claims.

Further regarding claims 4, 11 and 19, it is unclear what is being claimed.

Claim 4, which depends upon claim 3, recites the same limitation as claim 3. Claim 11, which depends upon claim 10, recites the same limitation as claim 10. Claim 19, which depends upon claim 18, recites the same limitation as claim 18. Thus, claims 4, 11 and 19 do not further limit the claims from which they depend.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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14. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over the Deja Power Search Graphical User Interface Form ("Deja

Power Search Graphical User Interface", downloaded from:

www.exit109.com/~jeremy/news/deja.html, © Feb. 12, 2000, pp. 1-20, hereafter referred

to as "DPSGUI") in view of Mehmet Altinel et al. ("Efficient Filtering of XML Documents

for Selective Dissemination of Information", Proceedings of the VLDB Conference,

Cairo, Egypt, Sep. 10-14, 2000, pp. 53-64, hereafter referred to as "Altinel").

Independent claim 1 states:

A computer-implemented method of searching a plurality of self-describing, structured documents, said documents including document fields, the method including: providing a graphical user interface including:

a document type selection filter;
one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;
one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and
as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said path specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications;

receiving the selected document type and the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications; and
searching a subset of the self-describing, structured documents based on the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications, the subset including documents of the selected document type.

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Regarding the limitations ...

***providing a graphical user interface including:
a document type selection filter;
one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;
one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and***

DPSGUI discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) as #50. This GUI enabled a user to input data used for defining searches. The DPSGUI comprises a drop down selector field labeled "Archive" for selecting a document type, such as "complete" (all document types, see page 1 "Archive" field), "jobs" (employment document types, see page 2 "Archive" field), "for sale" (classified/want ad document types, see page 3 "Archive" field), and "adult" (adult content document types, see page 4 "Archive" field). DPSGUI further discloses a filtering capability based upon a "Subject" and/or "Newsgroup" using the like-named TextFields shown in the GUI of page 1. The DPSGUI further indicates that these document field selection filters may be saved. DPSGUI additionally comprises a TextField allowing a user to input "Keywords" (See the TextField labeled "Keywords" on page 1), which have a certain value. It is implicit that the inputs to the DPSGUI are all utilized in a requested document search, when a user invokes one of the "Search" buttons found on the GUI of page 1, for example. In other words, all selected inputs are utilized in the search query, and thus are utilized in the context of each other to limit/filter the results of a search query.

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said path specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications;

***receiving the selected document type and the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications; and
searching a subset of the self-describing, structured documents based on the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications, the subset including documents of the selected document type.***

Although the DPSGUI does not display XPath specifications, provides a user interface for accepting document types and value specifications, and kicks off a search of documents upon user selection of a "Search" button (see page 1 "Search" button), DPSGUI does not explicitly disclose using XPath expressions in the search of self-describing, structured documents, such as XML documents. Altinel, though, discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed....). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath for searching in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled "3 Related Work"). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" in the first paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document. It is implied that if Altinel uses an XPath expression, that Altinel has received that expression. It is noted that the fields chosen to be displayed or not displayed in a GUI are obvious in light of each other.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught

by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

Regarding dependent claims 2-4: Although DPSGUI does not explicitly mandate the use of any particular mark up language, Altinel discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled "3 Related Work"). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" in the first paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

Independent claim 8 states:

A computer-implemented method of searching a plurality of self-describing, structured documents, said documents including document fields, the method including:
providing a graphical user interface including
a document type selection filter;
one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type; and
one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields;

receiving the selected document type and the completed value specifications and document field identifiers corresponding to the completed value specifications;
looking up path specifications corresponding to the document field identifiers, said paths specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications; and
searching a subset of the self-describing, structured documents based on the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications, the subset including documents of the selected document type.

Regarding the limitations ...

providing a graphical user interface including:
a document type selection filter;
one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type; and
one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields;

DPSGUI discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) as #50. This GUI enabled a user to input data used for defining searches. The DPSGUI comprises a drop down selector field labeled "Archive" for selecting a document type, such as "complete" (all document types, see page 1 "Archive" field), "jobs" (employment document types, see page 2 "Archive" field), "for sale" (classified/want ad document types, see page 3 "Archive" field), and "adult" (adult content document types, see page 4 "Archive" field). DPSGUI further discloses a filtering capability based upon a "Subject" and/or

“Newsgroup” using the like-named TextFields shown in the GUI of page 1. The DPSGUI further indicates that these document field selection filters may be saved. DPSGUI additionally comprises a TextField allowing a user to input “Keywords” (See the TextField labeled “Keywords” on page 1), which have a certain value. It is implicit that the inputs to the DPSGUI are all utilized in a requested document search, when a user invokes one of the “Search” buttons found on the GUI of page 1, for example. In other words, all selected inputs are utilized in the search query, and thus are utilized in the context of each other to limit/filter the results of a search query.

receiving the selected document type and the completed value specifications and document field identifiers corresponding to the completed value specifications;

looking up path specifications corresponding to the document field identifiers, said paths specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications; and

searching a subset of the self-describing, structured documents based on the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications, the subset including documents of the selected document type.

Although the DPSGUI provides a user interface for accepting document types and value specifications, and kicks off a search of documents upon user selection of a “Search” button (see page 1 “Search” button), DPSGUI does not explicitly disclose using XPath expressions in the search of self-describing, structured documents, such as XML documents. Altinel, though, discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page 53 (“We have developed....”). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath for searching in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled “3 Related Work”). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression “//product[price/msrp<300]/name” in the first

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paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document. It is implied that if Altinel uses an XPath expression, that Altinel has received that expression. Altinel further teaches that a XML document is abstracted as a tree of nodes, and that XPath expressions are patterns that can be matched to nodes in the XML tree. (See the first paragraph under the section entitled "2.2 XPath as a Profile Language" on page 54.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

Claims 9-11 are substantially similar to claims 2-4, and are therefore likewise rejected.

Independent claim 15 states:

A method of specifying where to search among a plurality of self-describing, structured documents, said documents having document types and including document fields, the method including:

displaying a graphical user interface including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type; and

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

the graphical user interface further including, as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, 'said paths specifications identifying nodes in the documents to be tested against completed value specifications;

receiving from a user the selected document type and the completed value specifications; and

transmitting to a server the selected document type and the completed value specifications and the path specifications corresponding to the completed value specifications.

Regarding the limitations ...

displaying a graphical user interface including:

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

DPSGUI discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) as #50. This GUI enabled a user to input data used for defining searches. The DPSGUI comprises a drop down selector field labeled "Archive" for selecting a document type, such as "complete" (all document types, see page 1 "Archive" field), "jobs" (employment document types, see page 2 "Archive" field), "for sale" (classified/want ad document types, see page 3 "Archive" field), and "adult" (adult content document types, see page 4 "Archive" field).

DPSGUI further discloses a filtering capability based upon a "Subject" and/or "Newsgroup" using the like-named TextFields shown in the GUI of page 1. The DPSGUI further indicates that these document field selection filters may be saved. DPSGUI additionally comprises a TextField allowing a user to input "Keywords" (See the TextField labeled "Keywords" on page 1), which have a certain value. It is implicit that the inputs to the DPSGUI are all utilized in a requested document search, when a user invokes one of the "Search" buttons found on the GUI of page 1, for example. In other words, all selected inputs are utilized in the search query, and thus are utilized in the context of each other to limit/filter the results of a search query.

the graphical user interface further including, as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes in the documents to be tested against completed value specifications;

receiving from a user the selected document type and the completed value specifications; and

transmitting to a server the selected document type and the completed value specifications and the path specifications corresponding to the completed value specifications.

Although the DPSGUI does teach a graphical user interface that does not display XPath specifications, provides a user interface for accepting document types and value specifications, kicks off a search of documents upon user selection of a "Search" button (see page 1 "Search" button), and the implied transmission of GUI input to a server (see text at bottom of GUI labeled as "Fine print", which teaches the use of an Internet Service Provider [ISP]), DPSGUI does not explicitly disclose using XPath expressions in the search of self-describing, structured documents, such as XML documents. Altinel, though, discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page

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53 ("We have developed...."). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath for searching in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled "3 Related Work"). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" in the first paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document. It is implied that if Altinel uses an XPath expression, that Altinel has received that expression. It is noted that the fields chosen to be displayed or not displayed in a GUI are obvious in light of each other.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

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Independent claim 16 states:

A computer-implemented graphical user interface, including:

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of a self-describing, structured document to be tested against... .. completed value specifications.

Regarding the limitations ...

a computer-implemented graphical user interface including:

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

DPSGUI discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) as #50. This GUI enabled a user to input data used for defining searches. The DPSGUI comprises a drop down selector field labeled "Archive" for selecting a document type, such as "complete" (all document types, see page 1 "Archive" field), "jobs" (employment document types, see page 2 "Archive" field), "for sale" (classified/want ad document types, see page 3 "Archive" field), and "adult" (adult content document types, see page 4 "Archive" field). DPSGUI further discloses a filtering capability based upon a "Subject" and/or "Newsgroup" using the like-named TextFields shown in the GUI of page 1. The DPSGUI further indicates that these document field selection filters may be saved. DPSGUI additionally comprises a TextField allowing a user to input "Keywords" (See the TextField labeled "Keywords" on page 1), which have a certain value. It is implicit

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that the inputs to the DPSGUI are all utilized in a requested document search, when a user invokes one of the "Search" buttons found on the GUI of page 1, for example. In other words, all selected inputs are utilized in the search query, and thus are utilized in the context of each other to limit/filter the results of a search query. It is further implied that this GUI, which runs in a browser, is computer-implemented.

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said path specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications.

Although the DPSGUI does not display XPath specifications, DPSGUI does not explicitly disclose using XPath expressions in the search of self-describing, structured documents, such as XML documents. Altinel, though, discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath for searching in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled "3 Related Work"). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression `"//product[price/msrp<300]/name"` in the first paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document. It is noted that the fields chosen to be displayed or not displayed in a GUI are obvious in light of each other.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so

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would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

Claims 17-19 are substantially similar to claims 2-4, and are therefore likewise rejected.

Independent claim 23 states:

A method of providing a searchable data base of self-describing, structured documents, including:

loading a set of document field and path specification pairs, said path specifications identifying nodes of self-describing, structured documents to be indexed and searched;

indexing portions of the documents corresponding to the document field and path specification pairs; and

providing a graphical user interface based on the set, including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of the documents to be tested against completed value specifications.

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Regarding the limitations ...

***providing a graphical user interface based on the set, including:
a document type selection filter;
one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;
one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and***

DPSGUI discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) as #50. This GUI enabled a user to input data used for defining searches. The DPSGUI comprises a drop down selector field labeled "Archive" for selecting a document type, such as "complete" (all document types, see page 1 "Archive" field), "jobs" (employment document types, see page 2 "Archive" field), "for sale" (classified/want ad document types, see page 3 "Archive" field), and "adult" (adult content document types, see page 4 "Archive" field). DPSGUI further discloses a filtering capability based upon a "Subject" and/or "Newsgroup" using the like-named TextFields shown in the GUI of page 1. The DPSGUI further indicates that these document field selection filters may be saved. DPSGUI additionally comprises a TextField allowing a user to input "Keywords" (See the TextField labeled "Keywords" on page 1), which have a certain value. It is implicit that the inputs to the DPSGUI are all utilized in a requested document search, when a user invokes one of the "Search" buttons found on the GUI of page 1, for example. In other words, all selected inputs are utilized in the search query, and thus are utilized in the context of each other to limit/filter the results of a search query.

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loading a set of document field and path specification pairs, said path specifications identifying nodes of self-describing, structured documents to be indexed and searched;

indexing portions of the documents corresponding to the document field and path specification pairs; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said path specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications.

Although the DPSGUI does not display XPath specifications, provides a user interface for accepting document types and value specifications, and kicks off a search of documents upon user selection of a "Search" button (see page 1 "Search" button), DPSGUI does not explicitly disclose using XPath expressions in the search of self-describing, structured documents, such as XML documents, and the loading and indexing of documents. Altinel, though, discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed....). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath for searching in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled "3 Related Work"). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" in the first paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document. It is implied that if Altinel uses an XPath expression, that Altinel has received that expression. It is noted that the fields chosen to be displayed or not displayed in a GUI are obvious in light of each other. Figure 3 of page 57, especially Figure 3a, and Figure 5 of page 59 further disclose indexing of portions of XML documents based upon XPath queries. It is further implied that document search

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parameters must be loaded in order for XPath processing to take place. See the first paragraph under the section entitled "2.2 XPath as a Profile Language" on page 54 in context of the first paragraph on page 55, which discusses XPath processing and sets forth an XPath query "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" for selecting name elements of the XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

Independent claim 24 states:

A method of providing a searchable data base of self-describing, structured documents, including:

loading a set of document type and path specification pairs, said path specifications identifying nodes of documents to be indexed and searched;
indexing portions of the documents corresponding to the document type and path specification pairs; and

providing a graphical user interface including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more aliases to path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of the documents to be tested against completed value specifications.

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Regarding the limitations ...

***providing a graphical user interface including:
a document type selection filter;
one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;
one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and***

DPSGUI discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) as #50. This GUI enabled a user to input data used for defining searches. The DPSGUI comprises a drop down selector field labeled "Archive" for selecting a document type, such as "complete" (all document types, see page 1 "Archive" field), "jobs" (employment document types, see page 2 "Archive" field), "for sale" (classified/want ad document types, see page 3 "Archive" field), and "adult" (adult content document types, see page 4 "Archive" field). DPSGUI further discloses a filtering capability based upon a "Subject" and/or "Newsgroup" using the like-named TextFields shown in the GUI of page 1. The DPSGUI further indicates that these document field selection filters may be saved. DPSGUI additionally comprises a TextField allowing a user to input "Keywords" (See the TextField labeled "Keywords" on page 1), which have a certain value. It is implicit that the inputs to the DPSGUI are all utilized in a requested document search, when a user invokes one of the "Search" buttons found on the GUI of page 1, for example. In other words, all selected inputs are utilized in the search query, and thus are utilized in the context of each other to limit/filter the results of a search query.

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loading a set of document type and path specification pairs, said path specifications identifying nodes of documents to be indexed and searched; indexing portions of the documents corresponding to the document type and path specification pairs; and as non-displaying fields, one or more aliases to path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of the documents to be tested against completed value specifications.

Although the DPSGUI does not display XPath specifications, provides a user interface for accepting document types and value specifications, and kicks off a search of documents upon user selection of a "Search" button (see page 1 "Search" button), DPSGUI does not explicitly disclose using XPath expressions in the search of self-describing, structured documents, such as XML documents, and the loading and indexing of documents. Altinel, though, discloses the well-known use of XML documents in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed..."). Altinel further discloses the well-known use of XPath for searching in the first and second paragraphs on page 55 (both paragraphs are found above the section entitled "3 Related Work"). Altinel discusses the use of the XPath expression "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" in the first paragraph to locate name elements in a XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300. In the second paragraph, Altinel further discloses the selection of a XML document if an XPath expression matches at least one element of that document. It is implied that if Altinel uses an XPath expression, that Altinel has received that expression. It is noted that the fields chosen to be displayed or not displayed in a GUI are obvious in light of each other. Figure 3 of page 57, especially Figure 3a, and Figure 5 of page 59 further disclose indexing of portions of XML documents based upon XPath queries. It is further implied that document search

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parameters must be loaded in order for XPath processing to take place. See the first paragraph under the section entitled "2.2 XPath as a Profile Language" on page 54 in context of the first paragraph on page 55, which discusses XPath processing and sets forth an XPath query "//product[price/msrp<300]/name" for selecting name elements of the XML document if the msrp of the product is less than 300.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Altinel for the benefit of DPSGUI, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a document filtering system that provided highly efficient matching of XML documents to large numbers of user profiles, as taught by Altinel in the last paragraph of page 53 ("We have developed...."). These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

15. **Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over the Deja Power Search Graphical User Interface Form ("Deja Power Search Graphical User Interface", downloaded from: www.exit109.com/~jeremy/news/deja.html, © Feb. 12, 2000, pp. 1-20, hereafter referred to as "DPSGUI") in view of Mehmet Altinel et al. ("Efficient Filtering of XML Documents for Selective Dissemination of Information", Proceedings of the VLDB Conference, Cairo, Egypt, Sep. 10-14, 2000, pp. 53-64, hereafter referred to as "Altinel") and further

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in view of Adar et al. (US Patent No. 6,493,702, filed May 5, 1995 and issued Dec. 10, 2002, hereafter referred to as "Adar").

Regarding dependent claim 5: Although DPSGUI does not explicitly state that its graphical user interface is implemented in HTML, Adar discloses the well-known use of HTML to implement graphical user interfaces such as Fig. 4 #410 and Fig. 6 #610, taken in context of Fig. 9 #914, showing an HTML interpreter for a user's browser. Adar further discloses the use of a browser to interpret HTML pages in col. 10 lines 12-21.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Adar for the benefit of DPSGUI in view of Altinel, because to do so would have enabled a programmer to develop a system that employed user and group profiles to augment Internet searches, re-rank search results, and provide recommendations for documents based on a subject-matter query, as taught by Adar in the Abstract. These references were all applicable to the same field of endeavor, i.e., electronic document searching.

Claims 6-7, 12-14 and 20-22 are each substantially similar to claim 5, and are therefore likewise rejected.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are deemed to be moot in view of this Action, which withdraws the previous rejections and does not incorporate the references cited in the previous action.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Non-Patent Literature

Freire, Juliana, et al., "WebViews: Accessing Personalized Web Content and Services", WWW 10, Hong Kong, May 1-5, 2001, pp. 576-586.

Ambroziak, Jacek, "Managing Tokenizers in XML Search", XML Europe 2000, Paris, France, Jun. 12-16, 2000, pp. 1-7 (plus citation).

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"XML Query Engine Provides Initial XQuery Support", XML Coverpages, downloaded from: xml.coverpages.org/ni2001-04-27-c.html, Apr. 27, 2001, 1 page.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Stevens whose telephone number is (571) 272-4102. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:00 - 2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The current fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Additionally, the main number for Technology Center 2100 is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Robert Stevens
Art Unit 2176
Date: March 14, 2006

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3/19/2006